

10620816

12-12-03

for



Europäisches Patentamt

European Patent Office

Office européen des brevets



(11) Publication number: 0 626 765 A1

(12)

EUROPEAN PATENT APPLICATION

(21) Application number: 94303630.1

(51) Int. Cl.⁵: H04B 1/40, H04Q 7/04

(22) Date of filing: 20.05.94

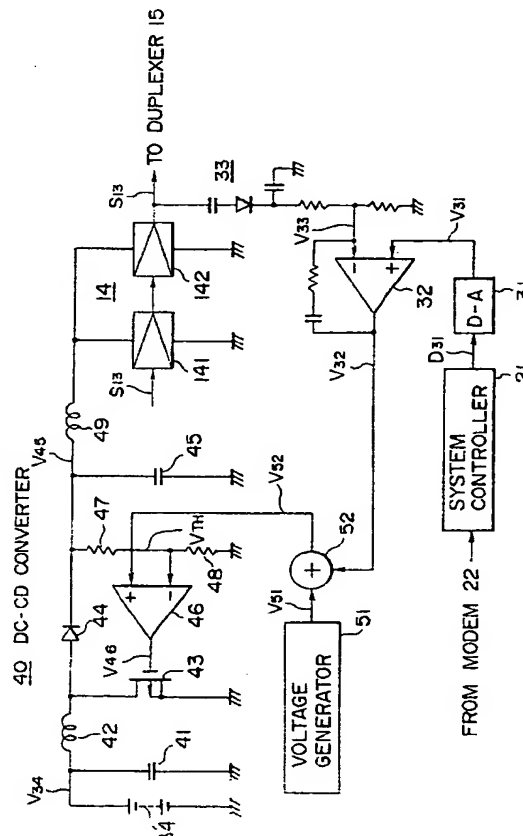
(30) Priority: 25.05.93 JP 145508/93

(43) Date of publication of application:
30.11.94 Bulletin 94/48(84) Designated Contracting States:
DE GB IT(71) Applicant: SONY CORPORATION
7-35, Kitashinagawa 6-chome
Shinagawa-ku
Tokyo (JP)(72) Inventor: Yokoya, Satoshi, c/o Sony
Corporation
7-35, Kitashinagawa 6-chome
Shinagawa-ku, Tokyo (JP)(74) Representative: Ayers, Martyn Lewis Stanley
et al
J.A. KEMP & CO.
14 South Square
Gray's Inn
London WC1R 5LX (GB)

(54) Radio communication apparatus.

(57) A radio communication apparatus capable of varying the level of its transmission output, comprising a receiving circuit, a transmitting circuit, an amplifier (14), an extractor, a detector (33), a variable voltage converter (40) and a control circuit (21). The receiving circuit receives a signal from an opposite station such as a base station, and the transmitting circuit transmits a signal to the opposite station. The amplifier (14) amplifies the output signal obtained from the transmitter, and the extractor extracts data from the output signal of the receiving circuit so as to control the level of the transmission output. The detector (33) detects the level of the transmission output obtained from the amplifier (14), and the variable voltage converter (40) converts a source voltage into the operating voltage of the amplifier. And the control circuit (21) produces a control signal to control the magnitude of the operating voltage supplied from the variable voltage converter (40) to the amplifier in response to both the detection signal (V33) from the detector and the output signal (V31) from the extractor, and supplies the produced control signal (V32) to the variable voltage converter. The transmission output obtained from the amplifier is varied by changing the operating voltage supplied from the variable voltage converter to the amplifier.

FIG. 3



The present invention relates to a radio communication apparatus and, more particularly, to an apparatus where the level of its transmission output is variable.

In a duplex mobile telephone system, inclusive of portable telephones and car telephones such as a cellular phone system, a base station is capable of controlling or designating the transmission output level of a mobile station. The reason is based on the purpose of suppressing the transmission output of a mobile station to the minimum value required for the base station, so as to increase the number of mobile stations, which can utilize the system, by using the same channel even in a cell (service area) of the other base station.

In the TACS (Total Access Communication System), the control or designation of the transmission output of a mobile station is realized by transmission of a 3-bit code termed MAC (Mobile Attenuation Code) from the base station to the mobile station. An exemplary construction for controlling the level of a transmission output in accordance with the MAC will now be described below with reference to FIG. 1.

FIG. 1 shows a portable telephone of analog cellular system including a mouthpiece 11, an audio circuit 12, a transmitting circuit 13, a power amplifier 14, a drive stage (former stage) 141 of the amplifier, an output stage (last stage) 142 of the amplifier, a duplexer 15, a transmitting/receiving antenna 16, a receiving circuit 17, and an earpiece 18. In the amplifier 14, the drive stage 141 performs a class AB operation, while the output stage 142 performs a class C operation.

When a sound signal from the mouthpiece 11 is supplied via the audio circuit 12 to the transmitting circuit 13, it is converted into an up-channel transmission signal (FM signal) S13. This transmission signal S13 is supplied to the amplifier 14 and amplified. Then this transmission signal thus amplified S13 is supplied via the duplexer 15 to the antenna 16, from which the signal S13 is transmitted to the base station.

Meanwhile a down-channel transmission signal from the base station is received at the antenna 16. The signal thus received is supplied via the duplexer 15 to the receiving circuit 17, so that the sound signal from the talker is extracted. Thereafter the sound signal thus extracted is supplied via the audio circuit 12 to the earpiece 18.

Denoted by reference numeral 21 is a system controller which consists of a microcomputer. The system controller, transmitting circuit 13 and the receiving circuit 17 are connected to each other via a modem circuit 22, whereby a predetermined command signal or data such as MAC can be accessed between the system controller 21 and the base station. Further the audio circuit 12, the transmitting circuit 13 and the receiving circuit 17 are controlled by

the system controller 21 in response to the command signal or the data received from the base station. Denoted by 23 is an operation key such as a dial key or a talk key.

Reference numeral 30 denotes an APC (Auto Power Control) circuit for controlling the magnitude of the transmission output in accordance with the MAC. More specifically, AOC data D31 is obtained from an output port of the system controller 21 having a latch function. The AOC data D31 is changed in accordance with the MAC transmitted from the base station, so as to control the magnitude of the transmission output.

The data D31 is supplied to a D-A converter 31, where a digital-to-analog conversion is executed to convert the data D31 into an analog voltage V31. The voltage V31 thus obtained through the digital-to-analog conversion is supplied as a reference voltage to a voltage comparator 32. Further the transmission signal S13 from the power amplifier 14 is partially supplied to a detector 33, which then outputs a DC voltage V33 of a level corresponding to the level or magnitude of the transmission signal S13, and then the voltage V33 is supplied to the comparator 32.

The emitter-collector junction of a transistor 35 is connected in series between a battery 34 for a power supply and a power line of the drive stage 141, and a comparison output voltage V32 obtained from the comparator 32 is supplied to the base of the transistor 35 as a control signal for the transistor 35. To the output stage 142, the voltage of the battery 34 is supplied directly.

When the comparison output voltage V32 is changed in the portable telephone of the construction described above, the operating voltage supplied to the drive stage 141 is also changed in accordance with such change of the voltage V32, so that the level of the transmission signal S13 supplied from the drive stage 141 to the output stage 142 is changed in accordance with the voltage V32. Consequently, the level of the transmission signal S13 produced from the output stage 142 is changed correspondingly to the voltage V32.

Since feedback is being executed at this time by the comparator 32 in such a manner as to render $V33 = V31$, the level ($= V33$) of the transmission signal S13 produced from the output stage 142 is equalized to the level of the voltage V31.

Accordingly, it is possible to control the level of the transmission signal S13 obtained from the output stage 142 by controlling the value of the data D31 in the system controller 21, whereby the base station is enabled to control the magnitude of the transmission output from the portable telephone in accordance with the MAC.

In the portable telephone system, as described above, the level of the transmission output of a mobile station is suppressed to its necessary minimum val-

ue.

In a power amplifier, it is generally customary that, when the level of an input signal is high and an output is maximum, the collector voltage of an output transistor is fully swung substantially from the ground potential to the operating voltage which is equal to the supply voltage, whereby the efficiency to the operating voltage is rendered maximum. However, when the input signal level is low and the output magnitude is small, such full swing of the collector voltage is not performed, so that the efficiency to the operating voltage is lowered.

Therefore, as graphically shown in FIG. 2, the efficiency η of the output stage 142 in the power amplifier 14 becomes maximum when its output PWR is in the proximity of the maximum thereof. Consequently, if the transmission output is reduced by lowering the drive level of the transmission signal S13 with respect to the output stage 142 as mentioned, there arises a problem that the efficiency at the time of a small transmission output is widely lowered in comparison with the efficiency at the time of the maximum output.

Meanwhile, when the magnitude of the transmission output is small, a great voltage drop is caused in the transistor 35 to consequently lower the operating voltage supplied to the drive stage 141, whereby the loss in the transistor 35 is increased.

Accordingly, even if the portable telephone is used in any place under satisfactory conditions where its required transmission output is small, there exists a problem that its power consumption is not reduced in comparison with the decrease of the transmission output. Such a problem brings about a disadvantage that the service life of the battery 34 is shortened to eventually shorten the effective usable time of the portable telephone.

It is therefore an object of the present invention to provide a radio communication apparatus which solves the problems mentioned above.

According to one aspect of the present invention, there is provided a radio communication apparatus capable of varying the level of a transmission output. The apparatus includes a transmitting circuit, an amplifier and a variable voltage converter. The transmitting circuit forms a transmission signal, and the amplifier amplifies the transmission signal to be sent from the transmitting circuit. The variable voltage converter converts a source voltage into an operating voltage of the amplifier. The magnitude of the operating voltage supplied from the variable voltage converter to the amplifier is chargeable in correspondence to the level of the transmission output.

According to another aspect of the present invention, there is provided a radio communication apparatus including a receiving circuit, a transmitting circuit, an amplifier, an extractor, a detector, a variable voltage converter and a control circuit. The receiving circuit receives a signal from an opposite station, and

the transmitting circuit transmits a signal therefrom to the opposite station. The amplifier amplifies the output signal obtained from the transmitting circuit, and the extractor extracts, from the output signal of the receiving circuit, data for controlling the level of the transmission output. The detector detects the level of the transmission output obtained from the amplifier, and the variable voltage converter converts a source voltage into the operating voltage of the amplifier. And the control circuit produces, in response to both the detection signal obtained from the detector and the output signal from the extractor, a control signal for controlling the magnitude of the operating voltage supplied from the variable voltage converter to the amplifier, and then supplies the control signal thus produced to the variable voltage converter.

In the present invention where the operating voltage supplied to the amplifier is changed on the basis of the level of the transmission output, it is possible to enhance the efficiency of the amplifier regardless of the transmission output level. Due to such enhancement of the efficiency of the amplifier, even when the output voltage is widely changed depending on the time of use with a battery employed as a power source, the radio communication apparatus is rendered properly usable for a long time without being harmfully effected by any variation of the source voltage.

The present invention will be more clearly understood from the following description, given by way of example only, with reference to the accompanying drawings in which:

FIG. 1 is a block diagram showing an exemplary constitution of a radio communication apparatus which is a premise of the present invention;

FIG. 2 graphically shows the characteristics of a power amplifier;

FIG. 3 is a block diagram showing a principal construction of a portable telephone in a first embodiment of the present invention;

FIGS. 4A to 4C are waveform-charts of signals for explaining the circuit operation in the first embodiment;

FIG. 5 is a block diagram showing a principal construction of a portable telephone in a second embodiment of the present invention; and

FIG. 6 is a block diagram showing a principal construction of another portable telephone in a third embodiment of the present invention.

The following explanation of a preferred embodiment will be given on an exemplary case of applying the present invention to a portable telephone of analog cellular system. FIG. 3 is a block diagram showing principal circuits of a portable telephone in the first embodiment of the invention. In this diagram, any like component elements corresponding to those in FIG. 1 are denoted by the same reference numerals or symbols, and a detailed description thereof is omitted.

ted.

In FIG. 3, reference numeral 40 denotes a variable DC-DC converter which, in this embodiment, is based on chopper type switching.

A capacitor 41 is connected in parallel to a battery 34, and a series circuit consisting of a coil 42 and the drain-source junction of an FET 43 is connected also in parallel to the battery 34. Further a series circuit consisting of a diode 44 and a capacitor 45 is connected in parallel to the drain-source junction of the FET 43. A terminal voltage V45 of the capacitor 45 is divided by resistors 47 and 48, and the divided voltage VTH is supplied as a reference voltage to a voltage comparator 46.

Meanwhile the terminal voltage V45 of the capacitor 45 is supplied via a high-frequency choke coil 49 to a power line of an amplifier 14.

There is provided a voltage generator 51. As shown in FIG. 4A for example, the voltage generator 51 generates a sawtooth voltage V51 of a predetermined frequency. The voltage V51 thus generated is supplied to an adder 52, while the output signal of the voltage comparator 32 is supplied also to the adder 52. Then, as shown in FIG. 4A for example, the adder 52 produces an output voltage V52 which is the sum of the voltages V51 and V32 and is equal in DC level to the voltage V32.

The voltage V52 is supplied to the comparator 46, whose comparison output voltage V46 is then supplied to the gate of the FET 43.

In the construction mentioned above, as shown in FIGS. 4A and 4B, the voltage V46 is turned to "H" (high level) when $V52 \geq VTH$, or is turned to "L" (low level) when $V52 < VTH$. Consequently the voltage V46 becomes a PWM signal whose "H" duration changes in correspondence to the level of the voltage V32, and the "H" duration thereof is proportional to the voltage V32. Since the PWM voltage V46 is supplied to the FET 43, it follows that the FET 43 is switched by the PWM voltage V46 as shown in FIG. 4C in such a manner as to be turned on when V46 = "H" or to be turned off when V46 = "L".

When the FET 43 is turned on, the voltage V34 of the battery 34 is supplied to the coil 42 by way of the line consisting of the battery 34 → coil 42 → FET 43 → battery 34, so that the energy is stored in the coil 42. Meanwhile, when the FET 43 is turned off, the energy stored in the coil 42 is released to charge the capacitor 45 by way of the line consisting of the coil 42 → diode 44 → capacitor 45 → capacitor 41 and battery 34 → coil 42. Therefore a predetermined DC voltage V45 is obtained in the capacitor 45, and then the voltage V45 is supplied as an operating voltage to the amplifier 14 via a coil 49.

In this case, if the transmission output from the amplifier 14 is decreased for example, the voltage V33 is lowered to consequently raise the voltage V32, thereby elongating the "H" duration of the PWM vol-

tage V46. As the "H" duration of the PWM voltage V46 is thus elongated, the on-time of the FET 43 is also elongated to consequently increase the energy stored in the coil 42, whereby the voltage V45 is raised to render the operating voltage of the amplifier 14 higher, hence increasing the transmission output.

To the contrary, if the transmission output of the amplifier 14 is increased, the voltage V33 is raised to consequently lower the voltage V32, thereby shortening the "H" duration of the PWM voltage V46. As the "H" duration of the PWM voltage V46 is thus shortened, the on-time of the FET 43 is also shortened to eventually decrease the energy stored in the coil 42, whereby the voltage V45 is lowered to render the operating voltage of the amplifier 14 lower, hence reducing the transmission output.

In this manner, the magnitude of the transmission output is so controlled, through feedback, as to maintain the state of $V33 = V31$, so that the magnitude of the transmission output can be controlled by the data D31.

In this case, since the operating voltage V45 supplied to the amplifier 14 is controlled in accordance with the magnitude of the transmission output, the efficiency can be kept at the maximum or proximate thereto regardless of the magnitude of the transmission output. For example, in comparison with the aforementioned circuit shown in FIG. 1, the efficiency can be enhanced by 10 to 15 percent or so.

As compared with the foregoing case of the circuit in FIG. 1, the effect of enhancing the efficiency becomes greater in accordance with a reduction of the transmission output. Therefore, even under the conditions where the battery 34 is a lithium one and the output voltage V34 widely varies depending on the time of use, it is still possible to use the portable telephone for a long time properly without any harmful influence from the variation of the output voltage V34.

The operating voltage V45 is produced by directly converting the output voltage V34 of the battery 34, by means of the chopper type variable DC-DC converter 40, into a value required for the amplifier 14. Therefore the amplifier 14 is capable of continuously minimizing the loss regardless of the operating voltage V45, and thus it becomes possible to attain a high efficiency from this point of view as well.

Now the construction of a portable telephone in a second embodiment of the present invention will be described below with reference to FIG. 5. FIG. 5 is a block diagram showing principal circuits of the portable telephone according to the second embodiment. In this diagram, any like component elements corresponding to those in FIG. 3 are denoted by the same reference numerals or symbols, and a detailed description thereof is omitted.

The second embodiment shown in FIG. 5 represents an exemplary case of controlling the bias or

gain of an amplifier 14 also in correspondence to the magnitude of a transmission output. In the third embodiment, data D61 of the value conforming to the MAC is extracted from an output port of a system controller 21 having a latch function. The data D61 is supplied to an D-A converter 61 where digital-to-analog conversion is executed to produce an analog voltage V61. Then the voltage V61 thus obtained is supplied to a voltage comparator 46 of a DC-DC converter 40 as a control voltage for the output voltage V45 similarly to the aforementioned voltage V52 in FIG. 3.

The output voltage V32 of the comparator 32 is supplied to the amplifier 14 as a bias or gain control voltage, whereby the bias or gain of the amplifier 14 is controlled in response to the operating voltage V45 supplied to the amplifier 14.

In the second embodiment of the construction mentioned above, the operating voltage V45 of the amplifier 14 is controlled in response to the voltage V61 which is varied in accordance with the MAC, whereby the magnitude of the transmission output is controlled in conformity to the MAC. And in this third embodiment also, an enhanced efficiency is attainable in the case of a low-level transmission output as well as in the case of a high-level transmission output.

Furthermore, due to the contrivance that the bias or gain of the amplifier 14 is controlled in accordance with the magnitude of the transmission output, i.e., the operating voltage V45, the efficiency can be improved from this point of view as well. And since the amplifier 14 is enabled to perform a class-A or class-AB operation, no problem arises even if the signal S13 to be transmitted has any amplitude component. Therefore it is possible to apply the above to a portable telephone of digital cellular system where the transmission signal S13 is a QPSK signal or the like.

Hereinafter the construction of another portable telephone in a third embodiment of the present invention will be described with reference to FIG. 6. FIG. 6 is a block diagram showing principal circuits in the third embodiment. In this diagram, any like component elements corresponding to those in FIG. 3 are denoted by the same reference numerals, and a detailed description thereof is omitted.

In the third embodiment of FIG. 6, a transmission signal S13 outputted from a transmitting circuit 13 is supplied via a variable attenuator 71 to a power amplifier 14, and a voltage V32 is supplied from a comparator 32 to the attenuator 71 as a control voltage thereof. And when a control action is so performed as to lower the operating voltage V45 of the amplifier 14 in response to the voltage V61, the level of the transmission signal S13 supplied from the attenuator 71 to the amplifier 14 is controlled in the polarity to lower the level of the signal S13.

Consequently, in this third embodiment also, an enhanced efficiency is attainable in the case of a low-level transmission output as well as in the case of a

high-level transmission output similarly to the aforementioned second embodiment of FIG. 5, and therefore it is possible to apply the third embodiment to a portable telephone of digital cellular system where the transmission signal S13 is a QPSK signal or the like.

It is to be noted that, in the embodiment mentioned above, the output voltage V32 of the comparator 32 can be supplied as an operating voltage of the drive stage 141. And in addition to the above embodiment representing a portable telephone, similar effects can be achieved also in a transceiver or the like by applying the present invention thereto in a state where the magnitude of its transmission output is variable.

Claims

1. A radio communication apparatus capable of varying the magnitude of its transmission output, comprising:
 - a transmitting circuit (13) for forming a transmission signal;
 - an amplifier (14) for amplifying the transmission signal obtained from said transmitting circuit (13); and
 - a variable voltage converter (40) for converting a source voltage into the operating voltage of said amplifier;
 - wherein the magnitude of the operating voltage supplied from said variable voltage converter (40) to said amplifier (14) is varied in conformity to the magnitude of the transmission output.
2. The radio communication apparatus according to claim 1, further comprising:
 - a detector (33) for detecting the magnitude of the transmission output;
 - and a comparator (32) for comparing the detection signal from said detector (33) with a value corresponding to the desired magnitude of the transmission output;
 - wherein the output signal (V₃₂) of said comparator (32) is supplied to said variable voltage converter (40) as a control signal thereof.
3. The radio communication apparatus according to claim 1 or 2, wherein the gain of said amplifier (14) is controlled in response to a change in the magnitude of the transmission output.
4. The radio communication apparatus according to claim 1, further comprising:
 - a detector (33) for detecting the magnitude of the transmission output;
 - and a comparator (32) for comparing the detection signal from said detector (33) with a val-

ue corresponding to the desired magnitude of the transmission output;

wherein the output signal of said comparator is supplied to said amplifier (14) as a signal for controlling the gain thereof.

5. The radio communication apparatus according to claim 1 or 2, further comprising a control circuit (21) for controlling the level of the transmission signal supplied from said transmitting circuit (13) to said amplifier (14);

wherein said control circuit (21) is controlled in accordance with the magnitude of the operating voltage supplied from said variable voltage converter (40) to said amplifier (14).

6. A radio communication apparatus comprising:
a transmitting circuit (13) for transmitting a signal to an opposite station;

an amplifier (14) for amplifying the output signal of said transmitting circuit (13);

a variable voltage converter (40) for converting a source voltage into the operating voltage of said amplifier (14); and

a control circuit for producing a control signal to control the magnitude of the operating voltage supplied from said variable voltage converter (40) to said amplifier (14), and then supplying the produced control signal to said variable voltage converter (40).

7. A radio communication apparatus according to claim 1 or 6 further comprising:

a receiving circuit (17) for receiving a signal from an opposite station;

an extractor (21,22) for extracting data from the output signal of said receiving circuit so as to control the level of the transmission output;

a detector (33) for detecting the level of the transmission output obtained from said amplifier (14).

8. The radio communication apparatus according to claim 7, wherein said control circuit includes a comparator (32) for comparing the detection signal of said detector (33) with the output signal of said extractor (21,22).

9. The radio communication apparatus according to claim 8, wherein said control circuit further includes a reference signal generator (51) for generating a reference signal, and an adder (52) for adding the output signal of said comparator (32) to the reference signal obtained from said reference signal generator (51); wherein the output signal of said adder (52) is supplied to said variable voltage converter (40).

10. The radio communication apparatus according to claim 8, wherein said control circuit supplies the output signal of said extractor (21,22) to said variable voltage converter (40) to thereby vary the operating voltage supplied to said amplifier (14), and also supplies the output signal of said comparator (32) to said amplifier (14) so as to control at least the gain of said amplifier (14).

11. The radio communication apparatus according to claim 8, wherein said amplifier (14) further includes an attenuator (71) in the former stage thereof, and said control circuit supplies the output signal of said extractor (21,22) to said variable voltage converter (40) to thereby vary the operating voltage supplied to said amplifier (14), and also supplies the output signal of said comparator (32) to said attenuator (71) so as to lower the level of the output signal from said transmitting circuit (13).

12. The radio communication apparatus according to claim 7, 8, 9 or 10 wherein said amplifier (14) consists of a first amplifier (141) and a second amplifier (142) connected to the former stage of said first amplifier; and said first and second amplifiers are supplied with the operating voltage obtained from said variable voltage converter (40).

FIG. 2

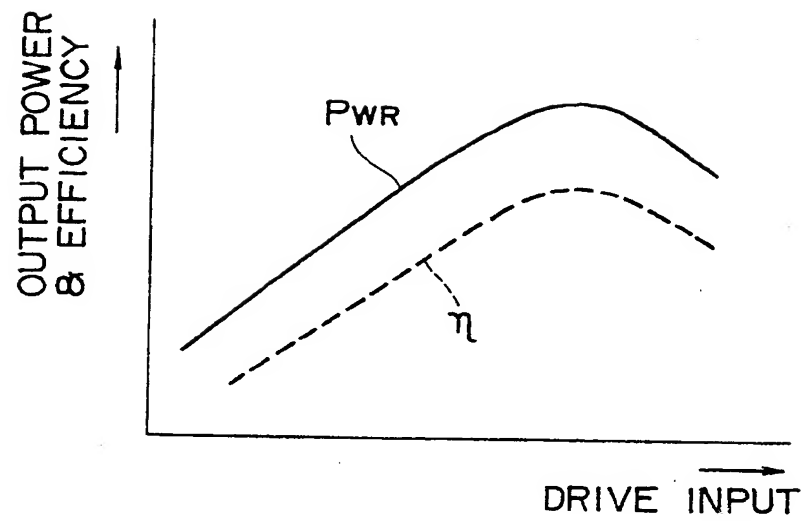
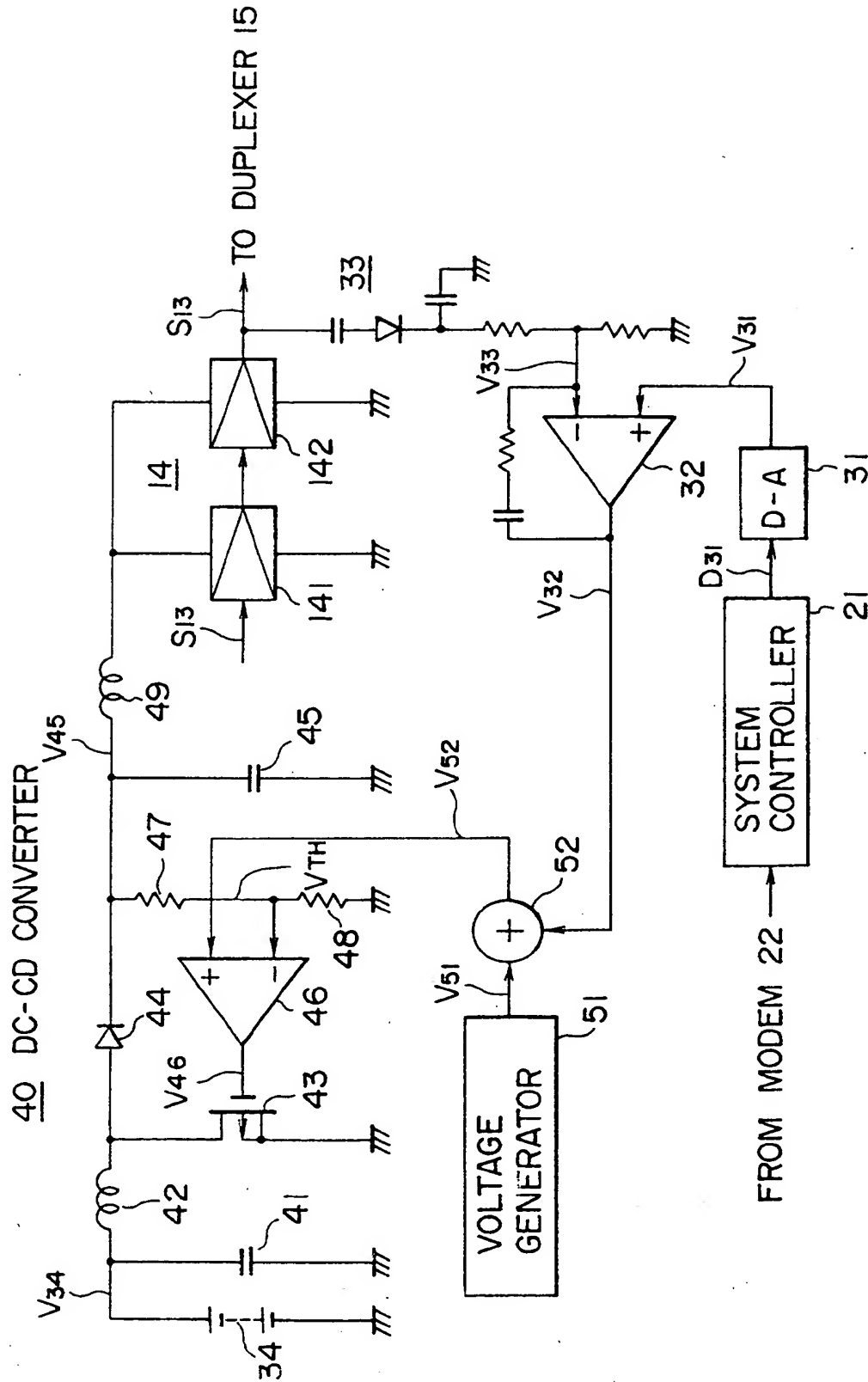


FIG. 3



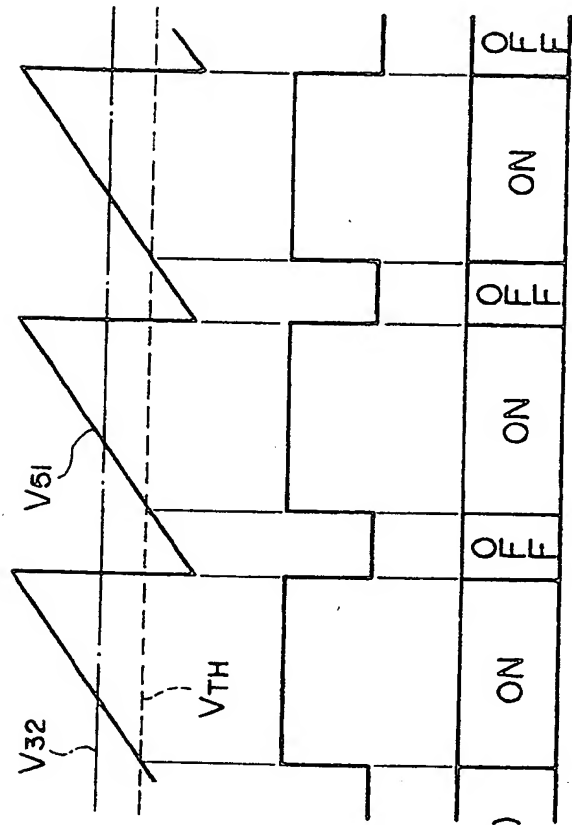


FIG. 4A V52

FIG. 4B V46

FIG. 4C FET(43)

FIG. 5

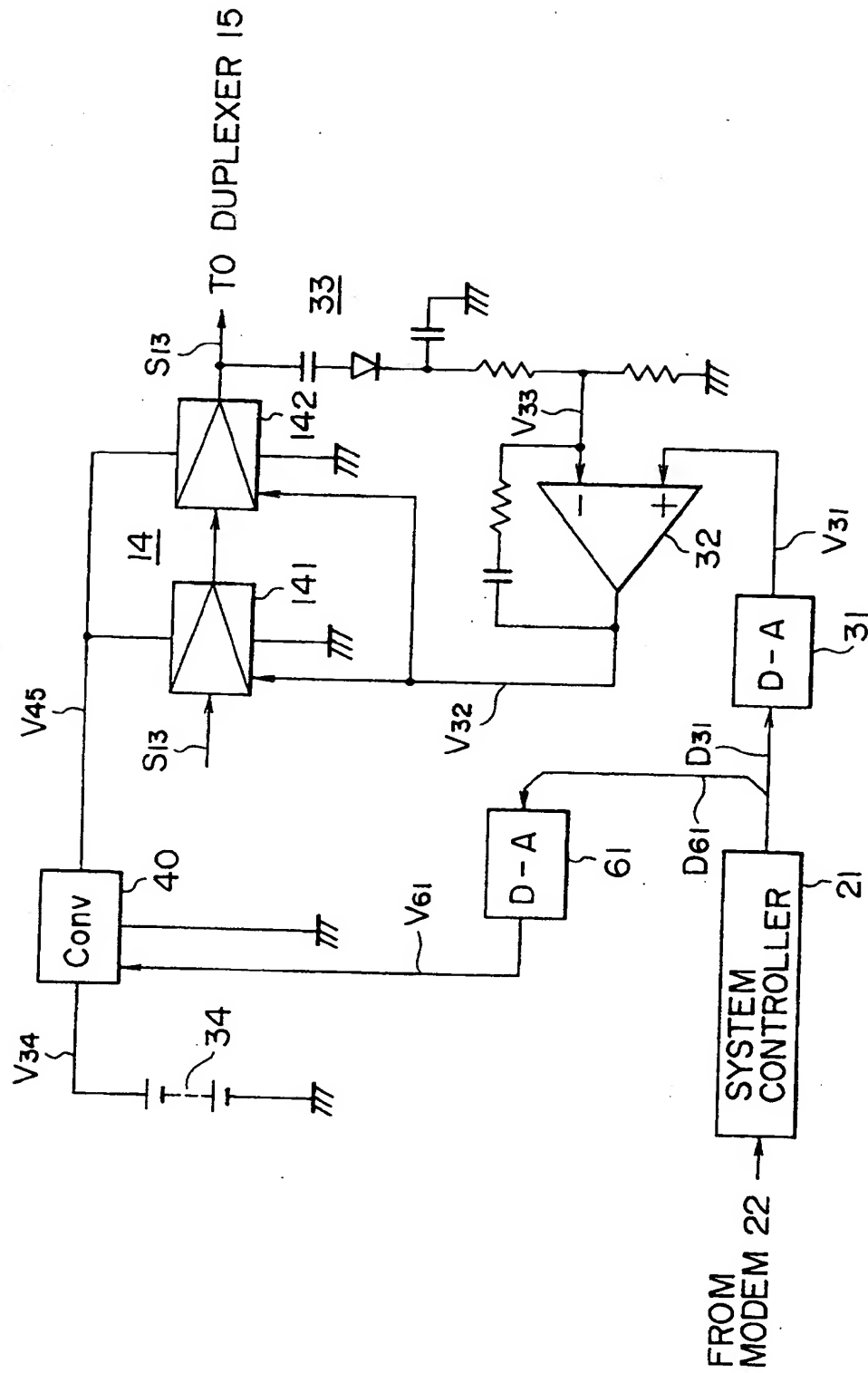
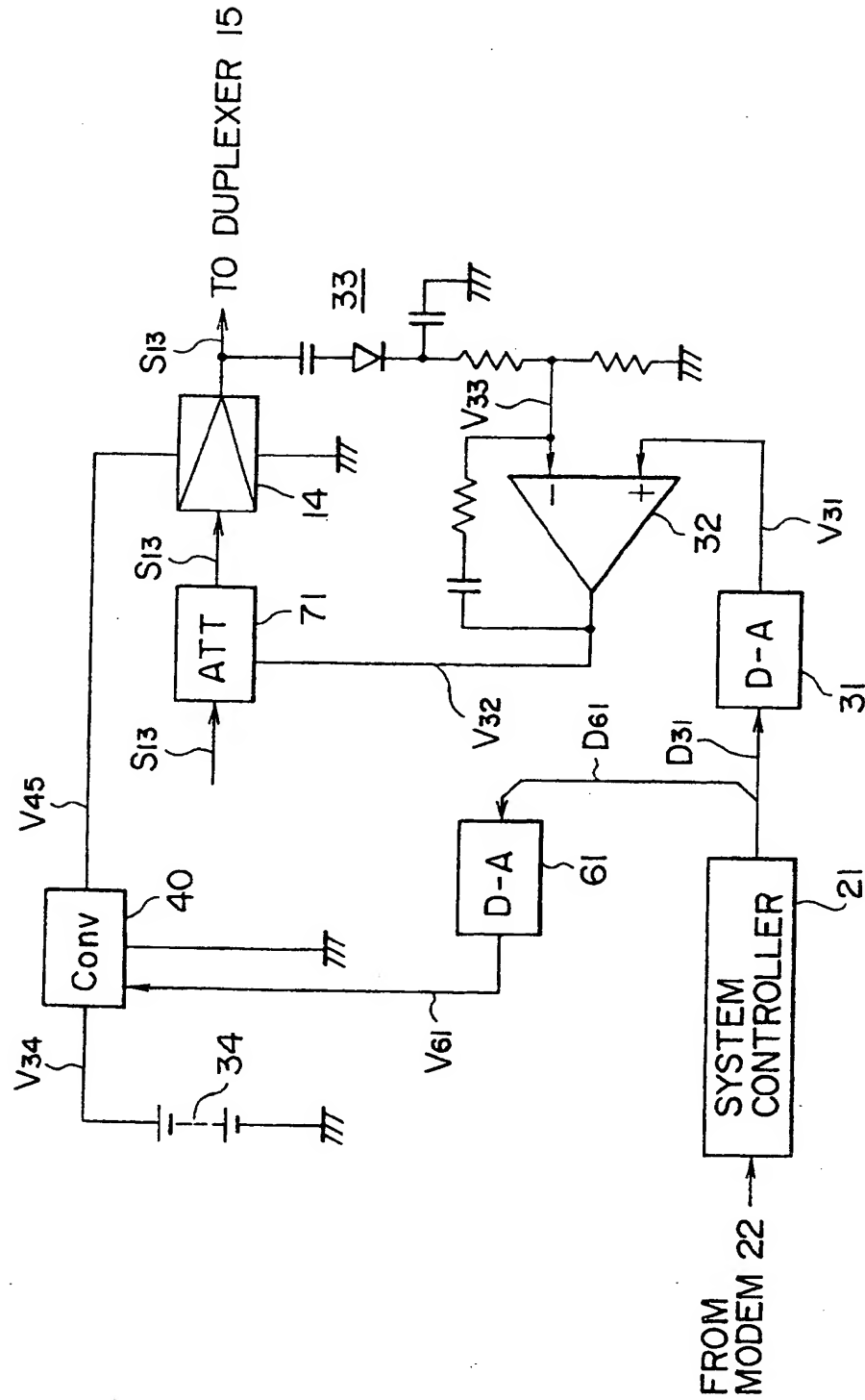


FIG. 6





European Patent
Office

EUROPEAN SEARCH REPORT

Application Number

DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT			EP 94303630.1
Category	Citation of document with indication, where appropriate, of relevant passages	Relevant to claim	CLASSIFICATION OF THE APPLICATION (Int. Cl.5)
A	US - A - 5 193 219 (TAMURA) * Fig. 1; column 3, lines 4-44 *	1-4, 6	H 04 B 1/40 H 04 Q 7/04
A	US - A - 4 654 882 (IKEDA) * Fig. 2, 4 *	1-4, 6	
A	US - A - 5 065 450 (WU) * Fig. 5; column 11, line 65 - column 12, line 5 *	1, 6	
A	GB - A - 2 199 467 (OKI ELECTRIC INDUSTRY) * Fig. 1; abstract *	1, 6	
X	US - A - 5 126 688 (NAKANISHI)	1-4	
A	* Figs. 1, 2, 7; column 5, line 33 - column 6, line 65 *	6	
			TECHNICAL FIELDS SEARCHED (Int. Cl.5)
			H 04 B H 04 Q
The present search report has been drawn up for all claims			
Place of search VIENNA		Date of completion of the search 21-07-1994	Examiner DRÖSCHER
<p>CATEGORY OF CITED DOCUMENTS</p> <p>X : particularly relevant if taken alone Y : particularly relevant if combined with another document of the same category A : technological background O : oral-written disclosure P : intermediate document</p> <p>T : theory or principle underlying the invention E : earlier patent document, but published on, or after the filing date D : document cited in the application L : document cited for other reasons & : member of the same patent family, corresponding document</p>			

